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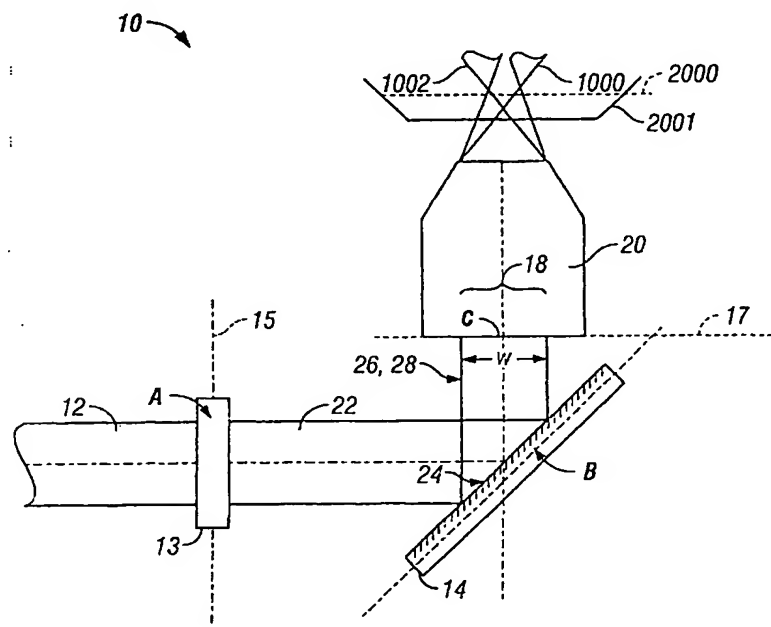
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD TO GENERATE AND CONTROL OPTICAL TRAPS TO MANIPULATE SMALL PARTICLES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to an apparatus and method to generate and control optical traps (1000, 1002) for manipulation of small particles. An upstream modification of an input laser beam (12, 22) provides a beam with a square or other preselected, cross section of intensity which can be used to form optical traps (1000, 1002) with a corresponding cross section of intensity.

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